

Message Text

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SUBJECT: YAACOBI'S VIEWS ON CABINET MEETING

1. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT YAACOBI TOLD CHARGE TODAY THAT SPECIAL CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS RABIN TRIP LASTED SEVEN HOURS. CABINET VOTED DOWN PROPOSALS OF FOUR MINISTERS (OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO TWO ILP AND TWO MAPAM MINISTERS) THAT ISRAEL SHOULD PREPARE FULL PEACE PLAN. AFTER THOROUGH, EXHAUSTIVE CONSIDERATION OF VISIT, CABINET FINALLY EVOLVED CONSENSUS ON THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS CARRIED IN PRESS THIS MORNING (TEL AVIV 3543).

2. YAACOBI DESCRIBED THE REPORT ON THE DINITZ/KISSINGER CONVERSATION AS EXTREMELY "VAGUE AND GENERAL". FORTUNATELY, HE ADDED, DEFENSE MINISTER PERES HAD BEEN BRIEFED IN SOME DETAIL BY KRIESKY ON SALZBURG DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS (RETURNING FROM VIENNA) AND PERES WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

3. YAACOBI EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS SOMEWHAT MORE "OPTIMISTIC" THAN HE WAS IN MARCH (NOTE: IN MARCH, HE WAS MOST PESSIMISTIC) THAT INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT COULD BE REACHED. HE SAID THAT HIS OPTIMISM STEMMED NOT FROM ANYTHING CABINET HAD HEARD (EITHER FROM PERES OR DINITZ) RE SALZBURG, BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF "BETTER ATMOSPHERE" HE CITED REOPENED CANAL AND POSITIVE PUBLIC RESPONSE OF SADAT TO ISRAELI THIN-OUT GESTURE IN SINAI AS EXAMPLES. (AS CONCERNS THIN-OUT, YAACOBI

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CLAIMED THIS WAS ORGINIALLY HIS IDEA WHICH WAS PICKED UP BY

DAYAN AND ADVOCATED BY YAACOBİ AND PRES IN THE CABINET.)

4. YAACOBİ STRESSED THE PROBLEM AREAS THAT HE AND OTHER MINISTERS SAW RE A SECOND AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT WERE:(1) PROBLEM OF DURATION.(2) POSSIBLE LINKAGE OF AGREEMENT TO A SUBSEQUENT SYRIAN AGREEMENT, AND(3) THE PASSES. YAACOBİ IMPLIED GOI COULD NOT ACCEPT A SYRIAN LINKAGE AND EMPHASIZED THAT PASSES AND RELATED ELECTRONIC FACILITIES COULD BE MAJOR STICKING POINT NOW AS IN MARCH. HIS THEME HERE WAS THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE SOME SUBSTANTIAL QUID PRO QUO FROM EGYPT BEFORE ABANDONING PASSES. (NOTE: YAACOBİ NEVER MENTIONED "NON-BELLIGRENCY" DURING HIS REMARKS). YAACOBİ CLAIMED THAT RABIN TOLD THE CABINET THAT UNLESS SOME SUCH CONCESSION WAS FORTHCOMING FROM SADAT, HE COULD NOT RECOMMEND GOING BEYOND THE MARCH POSITION.

5. RETURNING TO HIS MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THINGS, YAACOBİ REITERATED THAT THIS DID NOT STEM FROM ANY REPORTS THE CABINET HEARD ABOUT THE SALZBURG MEETINGS. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ENTIRE CABINET ASSUMED THAT THERE WAS "MORE YET TO COME" AND THAT PRESIDENT FORD WAS RESERVING THIS UNTIL HIS FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH RABIN.

6. IN ANY EVENT, YAACOBİ SAID, RABIN HAD ONLY GENERAL BRIEF AND WOULD HAVE TO REPORT BACK TO CABINET AFTER MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON TO CONSIDER WHERE, HOW, OR IF TO GO RE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ONLY IF IT WERE CLEAR THAT SADAT WAS WILLING TO MAKE RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS WOULD HE VOTE FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE THOUGHT MAJORITY OF CABINET MINISTERS WOULD AGREE WITH POSITION THAT UNLESS THIS WERE CLEAR IN ADVANCE, ISRAEL SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT EVEN GET INVOLVED IN ANOTHER SERIOUS NEGOTIATING EFFORT.

7. AT END OF CONVERSATION, YAACOBİ NOTED THAT ISRAEL WANTS ANOTHER AGREEMENT. RABIN WOULD GET HEAVY SUPPORT ON DEAL BASED ON MUTUAL GIVE AND TAKE, DESPITE MUTTERINGS FROM LIKUD. HE ADDED THAT RABIN WOULD ALSO HAVE HEAVY SUPPORT SHOULD GOI DECLINE TO GO ALONG WITH WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONE-SIDED PACT BASED ON UNILATERAL ISRAELI CONCESSIONS.

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